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# Psalms

**Part 02 of 02 // Chapters 23-41**

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Greetings from Precept,

We are so glad you've chosen to study God's Word. You're in for a rich time learning about God, His character, His ways, and the relationship we have with Him. We're confident God's Word will give you the knowledge and the motivation to help you walk in a manner worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus and that you'll be personally challenged, encouraged, and changed by the power of His supernatural Word.

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Looking forward to hearing from you,

The Precept Team

PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT

# *Psalms*

PART 2

The Blessed Shepherd,  
King, and Savior

(Psalms 23–41)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

PSALMS  
PART 2  
THE BLESSED SHEPHERD, KING, AND SAVIOR  
(PSALMS 23–41)

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## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

**How to Study Your Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010*

**The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000*

**Hebrew Word Study Tools**

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

LONGMAN III, TREMPER

**Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary**

*Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2014.*

VANGEMEREN, WILLEM A.

**The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Psalms**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2008*

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures—Old Testament**

*Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985*

## RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

**Logos Bible Software**

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com).

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

We are excited that you have chosen to study *Psalms* with us. It will be such a blessing to your life because it is part of God's Word, His self-revelation, each part of which is essential to understanding the whole purpose of God.

As a book of the Bible, Psalms holds a unique place. It's a collection of poetry—prayer, praises, or songs—each psalm with its own message. They're not chapters, each building on the previous, intended to be read sequentially. And unlike prose, with chapters divided into paragraphs, verses in poetry are collected into “stanzas,” each stanza within a poem separated from the previous one by a blank line.

To understand the psalms, it's important to see the flow of thought between stanzas, namely how does one connect with the previous ones? For example:

Does the stanza contrast with the previous one?

Does it give the reason or result for what was said previously?

Is it a request or a call to action due to the psalmist's circumstances spoken previously?

Is it praise in light of who God is or what He has done mentioned previously?

Unlike English poetry that often emphasizes rhyme and meter (or rhythm), Hebrew poetry's most important element is parallelism, by which authors emphasize ideas. Sometimes that parallelism repeats a thought in other words. Other times, the parallelism adds new information to an original concept. A third type contrasts ideas, showing how they are different. A fourth uses analogies, likening one thing to another, the characteristics of which are similar.

David, who wrote many of the psalms, appointed Levites to serve in the house of the Lord. “They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem” (1 Chronicles 6:31-32).

We are invited to pour out our hearts to God, to come before Him and present our concerns. We were made to sing, to lift our voices in worship, to speak to God and to others “in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with [our] heart[s] to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).

So as you study the psalms with us, use them for prayer and praise of God . . . or as a springboard for your own songs or poetry of prayer and worship to God. Pour out your heart before Him and listen for His response. Grow your intimacy with God in your prayer and worship.

## LESSON ONE

### **Psalms Twenty-three through Twenty-seven**

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:  
Observation Worksheets of Psalms 23–27  
“General Pattern for Studying the Psalms”  
“The Lord”  
“Psalms 23–41 at a Glance”  
Word studies  
Cross-references

**We are so glad you are joining us for this study! Our prayer for you is that God will use it to encourage you with the rich truths about Him and His character.**

**Psalms is divided into five books. In this course, we will study the second half of Book One—Psalms 23–41.**

**This course is designed for you to learn how to study the Psalms, so that you’ll be able to study any of the psalms you’d like.**

**If you have not yet read the section titled “Before You Begin . . .,” do so now.**

**DAY ONE** Psalm 23 is a familiar psalm, and for many it stirs up memories of comfort and encouragement during difficult times.

1. As we begin our study today, ask God to help you observe the rich truths of Psalm 23 and look at it in a fresh way. Use the Psalm 23 Observation Worksheet in the Appendix for your study.
2. Just before verse 1 is a superscription. Superscriptions contain information such as the writer, the occasion, who it is for, and how it is to be sung. In the Hebrew Bible, the superscription is verse 1.

Read the superscription. Who wrote this psalm?

3. Begin by simply reading the psalm. As you do, look for the main characters and list them below.
  
4. Read Psalm 23 again and mark *Lord* including pronouns such as *He* and *You*. For a suggested marking, see the bookmark on the back cover of your workbook.
  
5. Now read this short psalm a third time and mark the pronouns for David, such as *my*, *me*, *I*. You might color them blue.
  
6. It will be beneficial to make a **Key Word Bookmark** for Psalms 23–41. Cut out the one on the back cover of your workbook. On the blank side, you’ll list key words from Psalms and mark them as you will throughout our study.

Two key words found in Psalm 23 are *righteousness* and *lovingkindness*. Both are words you’ll find repeated throughout Psalms.

On the reverse side of the bookmark, you’ll see marking suggestions for some words often used in the Bible. An asterisk [\*] in this workbook shows words with suggested markings.

- a. Put following words on your Key Word Bookmark:
  - 1) *righteousness* (see *righteous*\*)
  - 2) *lovingkindness*
  
- b. Read the psalm again and mark these two words.
  
7. In the Appendix, you’ll find pages titled “The Lord.” Begin a list of what you learn about Him from this psalm. Include scripture references. We’ll add to this as we study each psalm.

For example:

Psalm 23

- 1 my shepherd
- 2 makes me lie down in green pastures  
leads me beside quiet waters

As shown above, note the verse numbers.

8. Now, it's time to write a short theme for each stanza. Who and what is the stanza mostly about? Use words from the text to summarize the main thought in each. As you do this, consider how the second one relates to (compares, contrasts, or continues) the first.

Record the themes below or in the margin or your Observation Worksheet.

a. verses 1-3

b. verses 4-6

9. On the line provided at the top of the Observation Worksheet, record a theme for Psalm 23. To do this, use a few words from the text that summarize what the psalm is mainly about.
10. Next, let's look at this psalm one stanza at a time. Keep your list on the Lord available as you do.
- a. A blank line shows the end of the first stanza.
- 1) What did David say about Himself, "I" in verses 1-3? How does this relate to what he said about the Lord?
- 2) How have you experienced the Lord doing these things for you? Note below a specific circumstance you remember.

- b. Now let's think about the second stanza, verses 4-6. A bold verse number shows the start of a stanza.
- 1) What were David's circumstances in verse 4?
  
  - 2) What was the Lord's provision and how did it affect David?
  
  - 3) Have you walked through what felt like the valley of the shadow of death or walked it with someone else? If so, express below how the Lord did these things for you.
  
  - 4) How did the scene change in verse 5?
  
  - 5) The psalmist made some statements about himself in the last verse. What confidence did he express? If the Lord is your shepherd, what do these truths mean to you?

6) Read the following to understand more about dwelling in God’s house forever.

a) John 14:1-3

b) Revelation 21:1-7

11. In John 10, Jesus is called the good shepherd.

Read John 10:11-15, 27-30. List what you learn about Jesus and His sheep below and on the next page. As you do, put a star by anything you need to remember or to share with someone.

12. Now you can read what commentaries say about Psalm 23.

*We pray as you are following the Shepherd that you are being refreshed and restored in Him.*

**DAY  
TWO**

We will be using a pattern for studying the psalms. If you studied Psalms Part 1, you're already familiar with it. As you study each psalm, use its Observation Worksheet from the Appendix.

In the Appendix you'll also find the page "General Pattern for Studying the Psalms." Keep this out so you can refer to it as we go through the lesson.

1. To begin our study of Psalm 24 we'll do as #1 of our general pattern says—read the superscription. With the exception of Psalm 33, which has no superscription, this same superscription is used for all the psalms we will study in this course, sometimes with additional information.
2. Now do what #2 says. Read the psalm to see who the main characters are and write them below.
3. Read #3 of our pattern. You probably noted that there are references to the *Lord* and to the one who may ascend into His hill (the pronouns *he, his*). Read again and mark these. You might use blue to mark *he, his*.
4. Next we'll mark key words as #4 of our pattern says.
  - a. Add the following to your Key Word Bookmark and then read the psalm, using your bookmark to mark key words. The words we're putting on our bookmark begin to show us themes repeated throughout Psalms.
    - 1) *salvation* (see *redeem*\*)
    - 2) *seek*
    - 3) *heart*
  - b. Did you notice other key repeated words? Read again and do the following.
    - 1) Underline the two questions in the first stanza.
    - 2) Mark *glory*. (Add this one to your bookmark.)
5. Now add to your list on the Lord from the Appendix that you began in Day 1. This is #5 in our pattern.

6. Let's evaluate each stanza to form a theme and note them below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet, #6. As you did with Psalm 23, use words from the text to summarize who and what each stanza is mostly about. As you move from stanza to stanza, think about how they connect to one another.
  - a. 1-6
  
  - b. 7-10
  
7. As #7 says, review your stanza themes, then use a few words from the text to summarize the main theme for Psalm 24. Record this at the top of your Psalm 24 Observation Worksheet.
  
8. Now read #8 in our general pattern. Then let's examine the stanzas. Keep your list on the Lord available as you do.
  - a. Verses 1-6
    - 1) Did you notice that the two lines in verse 1 are similar, as are the two lines in verse 2? This is called parallelism. As you read in "Before We Begin," the main feature of Hebrew poetry is parallelism, not rhyme and rhythm as in English poetry. The parallelism in Hebrew poetry repeats, amplifies, contrasts, or completes previous lines.  
  
Reread verses 1 and 2. Do the second lines in these verses seem to repeat, amplify, contrast, or complete (add to) the first line?  
  
The second lines amplify the fact that everything belongs to the Lord. You'll want to look for parallelism as you continue to study.
    - 2) Now compare Genesis 1:1-2, 6-10 with verse 2.

- 3) Review the questions you underlined in verse 3. The hill of the Lord was Zion, Jerusalem.

List below what you learn from this stanza about the one who can ascend into the Lord’s hill and stand in His holy place. As you do, carefully think about what you list and how it applies to you.

- 4) Jacob is mentioned in verse 6. God gave Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, the name Israel (Genesis 32:27-30). David, who was descended from Jacob, was king over Israel.
- 5) How does the first stanza help you in seeking the face of God?

b. Now the second stanza.

- 1) First, note below the repeated commands.

2) Based on the first stanza’s mention of ascending into the hill of the Lord and standing in His holy place, what might the gates and doors be referring to? Jot down your thoughts.

3) Compare this with Psalm 23:6b.

9. Read the questions from #9 of our general pattern.

How does what you learned about the King of glory impact your life and relationship with Him?

10. Finally, you can check what commentaries say about Psalm 24.

*You may have questions about the general pattern we’re using. Hangest thou in there! As we continue the process, we’ll expand on it. We have plenty of psalms ahead in the course to practice on!*

## DAY THREE

Today we move to Psalm 25. Begin your time with prayer, asking “that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9-10).

Be sure to keep “General Pattern for Studying the Psalms” close by as you study.



d. 12-15

e. 16-22

6. Record a theme for this psalm at the top of your Observation Worksheet.
7. You may want to review #8 in our pattern. Then let’s look at the first stanza, verses 1-3. Remember to keep your list on the Lord handy as you move through the text.
  - a. Did you notice *ashamed* repeated in these verses? Mark it, but you don’t need to add it to your bookmark.

When following #5 of our pattern—marking key words—mark words that are repeated several times in a psalm, because it helps us see themes.

- b. What did David request of the Lord in this part of his prayer? What did he say about “ashamed”?

- c. Use word study tools to look up the definition of the Hebrew word translated “wait.” How does this help you understand what David said in verse 3? Record your responses on the next page

If you’ve never done a word study, you may want to read the section “It’s All Greek to Me!” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

- d. How do lifting up your soul to the Lord in prayer and worship and waiting for Him fit together? How do they fit in your life? Is there something you're waiting for?
- 
- 8. Now verses 4-7.
    - a. What word is repeated three times? Mark it, but you don't need to add it to your bookmark.
    - b. What did David request?

- c. How do these requests connect with what he asked for in verses 1-3?
- 
- 9. Review verses 8-11.
    - a. Who is this third stanza mainly about?
    - b. Consider verse 9. How does an attitude of humility fit with what the Lord does?
  
    - c. Think about verse 9 as it pertains to your life. If any specifics come to mind, record them below.
  
    - d. What did God say about those who keep His covenant?
- 
- 10. Read the question that begins verses 12-15.
    - a. What do these verses say about the man who fears the Lord? Record here and on the next page.

b. What did David say about himself?

c. How does this stanza connect with the previous ones?

11. Now let's focus on verses 16-22.

What do you learn about David? List what you observe about:

**David's requests**

**David's circumstances**

12. As a review, look at the places you marked *wait* and summarize what you learn from this psalm about waiting on the Lord.

13. How were you encouraged, convicted, instructed, or strengthened as you studied this psalm?

14. Now that you've studied Psalm 25 for yourself, you can see what commentaries say about it.

*Beloved, are you confidently waiting on the Lord with eagerness? May we lift up our souls and put our trust in Him.*

**DAY  
FOUR**

1. Let's study Psalm 26, but before we do, pray Psalm 25:4-5.
2. Now read the psalm, looking for the main characters.
3. You've probably noticed characters are sometimes individuals and sometimes groups. Read Psalm 26 again and mark David the psalmist, including pronouns.
4. Read another time and mark *Lord*, including pronouns. Also mark the *wicked*, including pronouns and synonyms, such as *deceitful men*.
5. Next mark the key words on your bookmark, as well as *examine (try, test)*.
6. Add to your list on the Lord. You'll continue this throughout our study of Psalms.



c. Compare Psalm 1:1-3 with this stanza.

d. What does God see when He examines you? What do you want Him to see in the future? Think about it. Pray about it.

10. Now the second stanza.

a. What do you learn about David in verses 8-12?

b. In contrast, how is the sinner described?

c. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What do you learn about God's house where His glory dwells today?

- d. How are you glorifying God with your body, the place where His glory dwells? Is your temple holy? What do you need to do? Talk to the Lord about it and write what He shows you.

11. Now you're free to see what commentaries say about Psalm 26.

**DAY  
FIVE**

Before you read the encouraging psalm for today, pray, Beloved.

1. Read Psalm 27, noting the superscription and identify main characters.
2. Read and mark those two main characters. Then read again and mark the group mentioned.
3. Again read the psalm at least a couple of times to mark the key words on your bookmark. If you see other words repeated several times, you may want to mark them also.
4. Don't forget to add to your list on the Lord.
5. As you've done in previous psalms, summarize the stanzas below or on your Observation Worksheet, observing how each stanza relates to the others.
  - a. 1-3
  - b. 4-6
  - c. 7-10

- d. 11-14
- 
- 6. Record the theme for Psalm 27 at the top of your Observation Worksheet.
  - 7. With our list on the Lord in hand, let's begin by examining the first stanza more closely, verses 1-3.
    - a. What do you learn about David and the Lord?
      - b. Think about verse 3.
        - 1) Where did David's confidence come from? What about you?
        - 2) Pray about who you can share this with—a friend, a child or grandchild, or someone else God has put in your life.
- 
- 8. Read verses 4-6.
    - a. This time mark *house, temple, tabernacle,\* tent* all the same way if you haven't already marked them.





- c. Did you notice the word “believed” in verse 13? How does verse 13 relate to waiting on the Lord in verse 14? If needed, review the definition of “wait” from Day Three.
- d. How is David’s encouragement at the end of this psalm encouraging you?
11. What else have you learned or been reminded of for your life from this psalm?
12. Now you can read what commentaries say about Psalm 27. Just be sure to leave time for the last assignment.
13. In the Appendix, you’ll find “Psalms 23–41 at a Glance.” Completing this At a Glance chart will give you a visual overview of Psalms 23–41 and is a helpful tool for future reference. Record the themes from your Psalms 23–27 Observation Worksheets on “Psalms 23–41 at a Glance.”

Do you have a *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*? There’s an At a Glance chart at the end of each book of the Bible where you can consolidate your themes in one place. If you have an NISB, you may want to record your theme for each psalm there also.

*Brothers and sisters, how are you seeking God’s face—seeking to know Him more intimately? How are you waiting for Him? Confidently, with eagerness? Are you looking forward to dwelling in His house forever?*

*Wait for the LORD;  
Be strong and let your heart take courage;  
Yes, wait for the LORD.*

*—Psalm 27:14*

# APPENDIX

## **EXPLANATIONS OF THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE TEXT FORMAT**

**Italics** are used in the text to indicate words which are not found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek but implied by it.

**Stanzas** are designated by bold face numbers or letters and each stanza is separated from the previous one by a blank line. These were determined by the translators.

PSALM 23  
Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme \_\_\_\_\_

A Psalm of David.

- THE** LORD is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul;  
He guides me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You have anointed my head with oil;  
My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my  
life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

PSALM 24  
Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme \_\_\_\_\_

A Psalm of David.

**THE** earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains,  
The world, and those who dwell in it.  
2 For He has founded it upon the seas  
And established it upon the rivers.  
3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?  
And who may stand in His holy place?  
4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood  
And has not sworn deceitfully.  
5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD  
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
6 This is the generation of those who seek Him,  
Who seek Your face—even Jacob.

<sup>1</sup>Selah.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!  
8 Who is the King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
The LORD mighty in battle.  
9 Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And lift *them* up, O ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!

<sup>1</sup> *Selah* may mean: *Pause*, *Crescendo* or *Musical interlude*

10 Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
He is the King of glory.

Selah.

PSALMS 23–41 AT A GLANCE

**Book Theme:**

**Author:**

**Key Words:**

	Psalm Themes
	23
	24
	25
	26
	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
	32
	33

<b>34</b>
<b>35</b>
<b>36</b>
<b>37</b>
<b>38</b>
<b>39</b>
<b>40</b>
<b>41</b>

## GENERAL PATTERN FOR STUDYING THE PSALMS

1. Read the superscription for any background information about the psalm.
2. Read the psalm to observe who the main characters are.
3. Read again and mark the main characters. Always mark the Lord, even if His name is not mentioned often in the psalm.
4. Read again and mark key words.
5. List truths about the Lord.
6. Summarize a theme for each stanza from what you've observed, thinking about the flow of thought from stanza to stanza.
7. Review your stanza themes, then use a few words from the psalm to summarize the main theme.
8. Reason through the psalm stanza by stanza.
9. Now consider the following: What do you learn about the Lord in this psalm and how does this impact your life and relationship with Him? What can you learn for your life from the people in this psalm?

THE LORD